# Bridget Dutcher



**CANDIDATE NAME:** Bridget Dutcher

ADDRESS: 2456 Gee Hill Rd. Dryden, NY 13053

EMAIL ADDRESS: bridgetdutcher@yahoo.com

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2; ages 4 and 6** 

**EDUCATION:** Bachelors in Secondary Social Studies Education 7-12 and

History Masters in Teaching Students with Disabilities 7-12

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

I worked in the childcare field for 10 years as a lead teacher at the Cortland Child Development Center. Currently, I am completing my 2nd year as a Special Education teacher at George Jr. Republic UFSD.

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: I am an active volunteer for the Cortland County Youth Hockey Association. In the past year I have assisted in fundraising and supporting the annual hockey tournament.

I have volunteered and supported Trebella's Competition Dance team.

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN DRYDEN: Ten years ago, my husband and I chose to live in Dryden School District because of the positive reputation it had. Our children are now members of the academic community at Dryden Elementary and Cassavant Elementary. Throughout the Covid-19 shut down, the dedication, support, and caring nature of their teachers and other Dryden employees has shown me the incredible team that the Dryden School District has. The teachers have continued to support my children and my family. In return, I believe the educators and employees of the school district deserve to have a supportive Board of Education. I want to be part of a team that has supported the community in the ways the district has. I want to bring my range of experience in the education field to the Board of Education. I believe as an educator I can provide a different perspective to the Board of Education while supporting both the teachers and the community.

## Sophia Georgiakaki



**CANDIDATE NAME:** Sophia Georgiakaki

**ADDRESS:** 104 Lake Road, Dryden, NY 13053

EMAIL ADDRESS: sophia.georgiakaki@gmail.com

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2** 

**EDUCATION:** BS Statistics and Informatics, Athens University of Economics

and Business; MS Computer Science, Cornell University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Professor of Mathematics and Program Chair, Tompkins Cortland Community College

Substitute Teacher, Ithaca & Dryden School Districts

Manager/Owner, A1 Restaurant

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Dryden BOE Member 2017-Present

Tompkins Cortland CC Mathematics Faculty Liaison for Concurrent Enrollment 2007-2020

New York State Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges, Secretary and Past President 2006-2018

American Mathematical Association for the First Two Years of College,

Northeast Vice President 2018-Present

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN DRYDEN: I have experience serving the Dryden Central School District as a Board of Education member. During my term, the board worked on many positive initiatives for the District including the appointment of an interim superintendent; the hire of our current Superintendent; the hire of outstanding staff, administrators, principals, and our Athletic Director; the initiation and effective oversight of a multi-million dollar capital project; and many more.

I am a Dryden resident since 1993, and I am committed in supporting and developing our town and our school.

I am passionate about education and especially what Dryden can offer to our students. Both my children have graduated from Dryden, and I have first-hand knowledge of things we want to maintain as well as things we want to improve. Working in higher education, I also know what education and career look like after high school.

I am very interested in special education and adaptive instruction as well as technology and the arts. Especially after experiencing a number of educational challenges this past spring, we all realize the importance of supporting instruction in these areas and focusing on improving our ability to deliver educational opportunities to all students.

### Rhonda Kowalski



**CANDIDATE NAME:** Rhonda Kowalski

ADDRESS: 57S West Main Street, Dryden NY 13053 / PO Box 738

EMAIL ADDRESS: rmk@tompkinscortland.edu

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN:** 3, 2 in the district

**EDUCATION:** Ithaca College, English

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator,
Tompkins Cortland Community College

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY:

Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission member, Lion Legacy Chair, BRAVE Dialogue facilitator, recognized as one of the 40 Caring Adults in Tompkins County in 2017, Vector Network mentor, and youth basketball coach.

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN DRYDEN:

### For the community:

Through my work with Lion Legacy we have been able to raise funds for the funerals of two Dryden students, Hayli Hough and Kaylee Wacht. We were also the first to organize food, clothing, and other donations after the fire at Poets Landing. I also coordinate, cook, and serve Thanksgiving dinner to TC3 students (commuter and residential) who would otherwise be eating alone.

### For our students:

Since I was 16, I have coached, mentored, or worked with the youth of this community. For the past 15 years, I have spent a great deal of time working and developing long lasting relationships with our students, especially those in the business department. Not only do I have two children of my own that attend Dryden Schools, I also have another daughter that has developmental disabilities due to a traumatic brain injury suffered as a toddler. I've been a guest speaker on several occasions and have presented on parent nights, career nights, and at open houses.

### For our faculty/staff:

One of the benefits to my job is that I work not only with the faculty and staff at Dryden on a daily basis, I also work with 75 other school districts. I have a lot of contacts and I know the challenges facing our schools. I am an alum. I am proud to be an active part of this community. Together we can have an equitable education for all and be the district that others with to emulate. Different perspectives, one goal. #DrydenStrong

### Heather Williams



**CANDIDATE NAME:** Heather Williams

**ADDRESS:** 17 Cemetery Lane, McLean NY

EMAIL ADDRESS: hwillia1@dryden.k12.ny.us

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1** 

**EDUCATION:** BS Education MS Curriculum Design and Instruction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Teacher DCSD 23 years, Instructional Technology specialist BOCES and ICSD, Instructional Coach, instructor at TC3, professional tutor

CIVIC, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Volunteer coach, Dryden CSD BOE member, member and former trustee,

St. Paul's UMC, Ithaca

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN DRYDEN: I would like the honor of continuing to serve on the Dryden BOE for several reasons:

- Shae Beach, my daughter. She is my #1 reason. I want to surround her and EVERY Dryden student with the best we have to offer from personnel to playground equipment.
- I am a longtime resident, and my child attends DES. I want to assist the district in moving academic and social-emotional learning forward through attention to policy and spending.
- I want to finish what I started. I committed to service on the BOE in order to honor
  my commitment to education and community, and most of all, members of the DCSD
  organization from bottom to top!
- I bring a deep knowledge of research based practices and curriculum design to the table.
   I ask difficult questions, and am comfortable taking a deep dive on the data to look for the story it tells.
- I enjoy the camaraderie of being a board member. Even when we disagree, it is with deep respect. #B0Epartyof9